

an weakness, some germ of corruption and degeneracy, which cunning will discover, and wickedness insensibly open, enlarge and improve. Every government degenerates when entrusted to the rulers of the people alone. The people, therefore, are its only safe depositaries. And to render

them safe, their minds must be improved to a certain degree. (From "Notes on Virginia," 1782. F. III., 254.) GOVERNMENT.—It has been said that our governments, both federal and particular, want energy; that it is difficult to restrain

individuals and States from committing wrong. This is and it is an inconvenience. On the other hand that in which absolute governments derive from an armed force, which is the effect of the bayonet constantly held at the breast of every citizen, and which resembles very much the stillness of a grave, must be admitted also to have its inconveniences, weigh the two together and like best to submit to the former.

Compare the number of wrongs committed with impunity by citizens among us, with those committed by the sovereign of other countries, and the latter will be found most numerous, more oppressive on the mind, and most degrading of the dignity of man. (From questions propounded by M. De Meusnier,

F. IV., 147-)

GOVERNMENT.—The first principle of a good government is only a distribution of its powers into executive, judiciary, legislative, and a subdivision of the latter into two or three branches: (To John Adams, 1787. F. IV., 454.) GOVERNMENT.—Though civil government duly framed and administered be one of the greatest blessings and most powerful arguments for procuring

safety and happiness to men
collected rge societies, yet such is
the proneness of those to whom
owers are necessarily deputed to
prevent them to the at-nent of
personal wealth and dominion and
to the utter op-iion of their fellow
men that it has become
questionable her the condition of
our aboriginal neighbors who live
out laws or magistracies be not
preferable to that of the t mass of
the nations of the earth who feel
their laws and